

EIS on Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases on the White River National Forest

Scoping meetings

April 2014

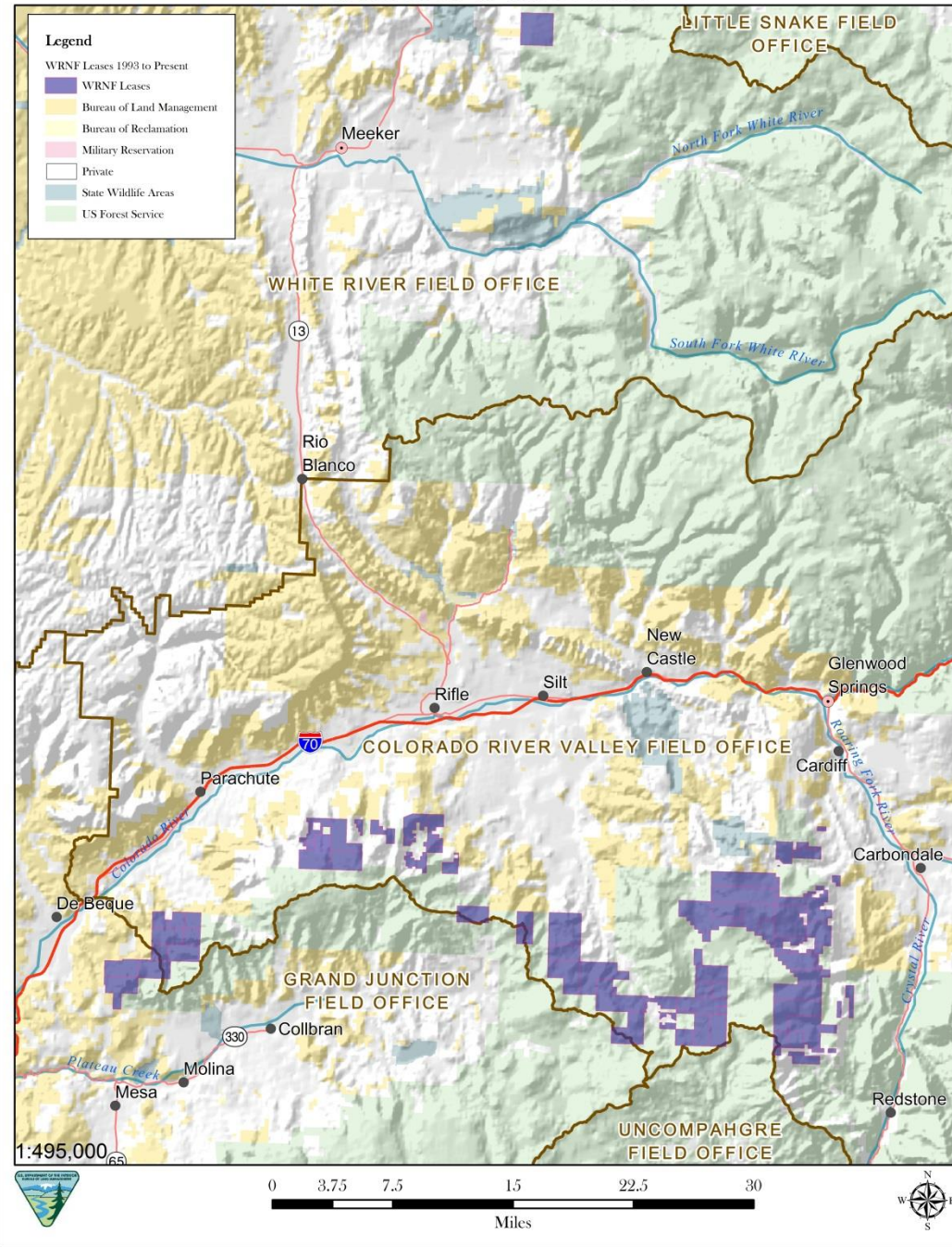
Remainder of meeting

- 10 minutes – presentation
- 20 minutes – Q&A
- 45 minutes – oral comments
- 30 minutes – open house
- 45 minutes – oral comments

What we are doing

- EIS analyzing 65 existing leases issued since 1993 on the White River National Forest.
- Final result will be a Record of Decision
 - Keep leases as they currently are
 - Modify existing leases
 - Cancel existing leases

Current Oil and Gas Leases Issued in the White River National Forest from 1993 to the Present



Schedule

- Scoping period – now
- Draft alternatives
- Public comment on draft – Summer 2015
- Final EIS – Summer 2016

Scoping period

- Identify issues to address in the EIS
- Most effective comments will be specific rather than broad statements
- Focus on specific issues you want to see addressed by BLM
- Additional information or alternatives

What this EIS does not address

- ***Future leasing.***
 - White River National Forest is currently revising their Oil and Gas EIS. Final expected later in 2014.
- **Drilling/development proposals.**
 - Forest Service would take lead on drilling proposals, including specific routes, locations
 - Forest Service waiting for results of BLM EIS

What EIS does not address

- Policy decisions outside scope of this EIS
- Lease suspensions
- Leases issued before 1993

Why is BLM conducting the EIS?

- Forest Service determines which of its lands are available for oil and gas leasing (BLM manages the leases)
- Forest Service 1993 EIS made lands available
 - Decisions carried forward in 2002 Forest Plan
 - Most leased '95-2004
- 2007 IBLA decision
 - BLM did not formally adopt Forest Service analysis or do our own

Issues already identified

- Changes in oil and gas since 1993
 - More development
 - Different technologies
- New air quality analyses available
- Endangered species updates since 1993
- Roadless Rule new since 1993

Effective Scoping Comments

- What issues do you want to see BLM address in this EIS?
- Do you have information you want BLM to consider?
- Do you have suggested alternatives?

Providing comments

- Oral comments taken at public meetings
- Written comments taken at public meetings
- Provide written comments through May 16

Common questions

- How important are public comments?
- How important are local comments?
- Do you have the authority to cancel leases?
- Why not just cancel the leases?

Why were lease suspensions approved?

- Ursa Resources 7 leases
 - Development proposal in 2009
 - Unitization request in 2012
- SG Interests 18 leases
 - Unitization request in 2011
 - Development proposals in 2012

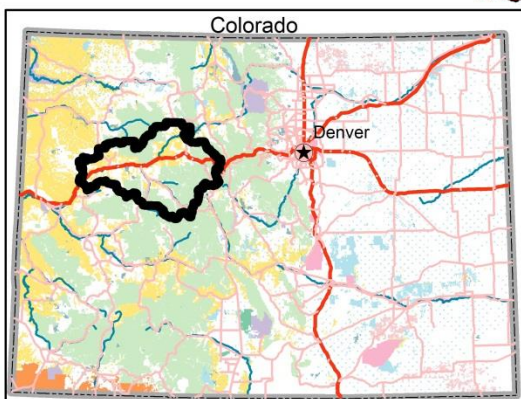
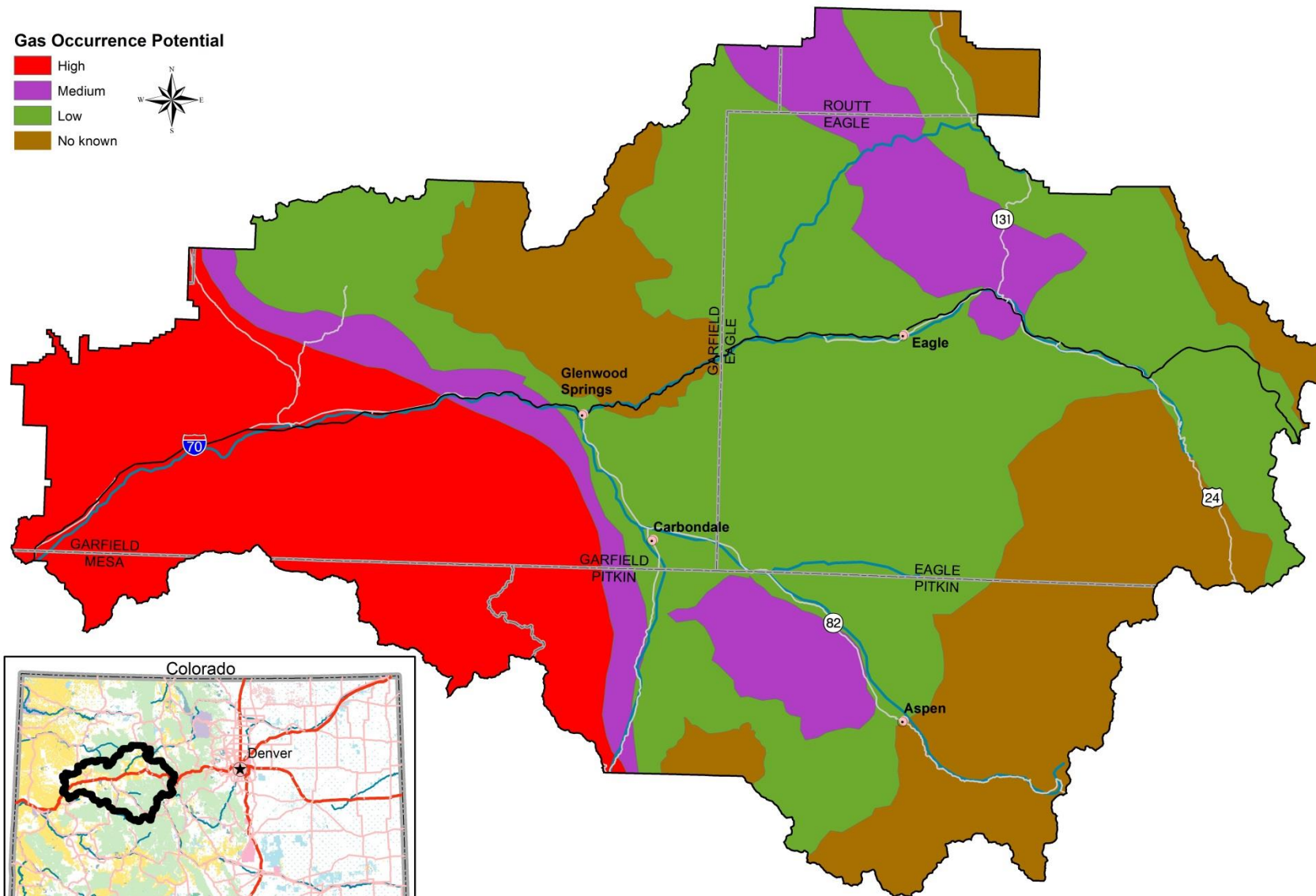
Why was the area leased (particularly Thompson Divide)?

- Forest Service decision made the lands available
- Industry nomination
- Forest Service concurred with offering the lands for lease
- Interest in the area for many decades

Gas Occurrence Potential in the Colorado River Valley Field Office

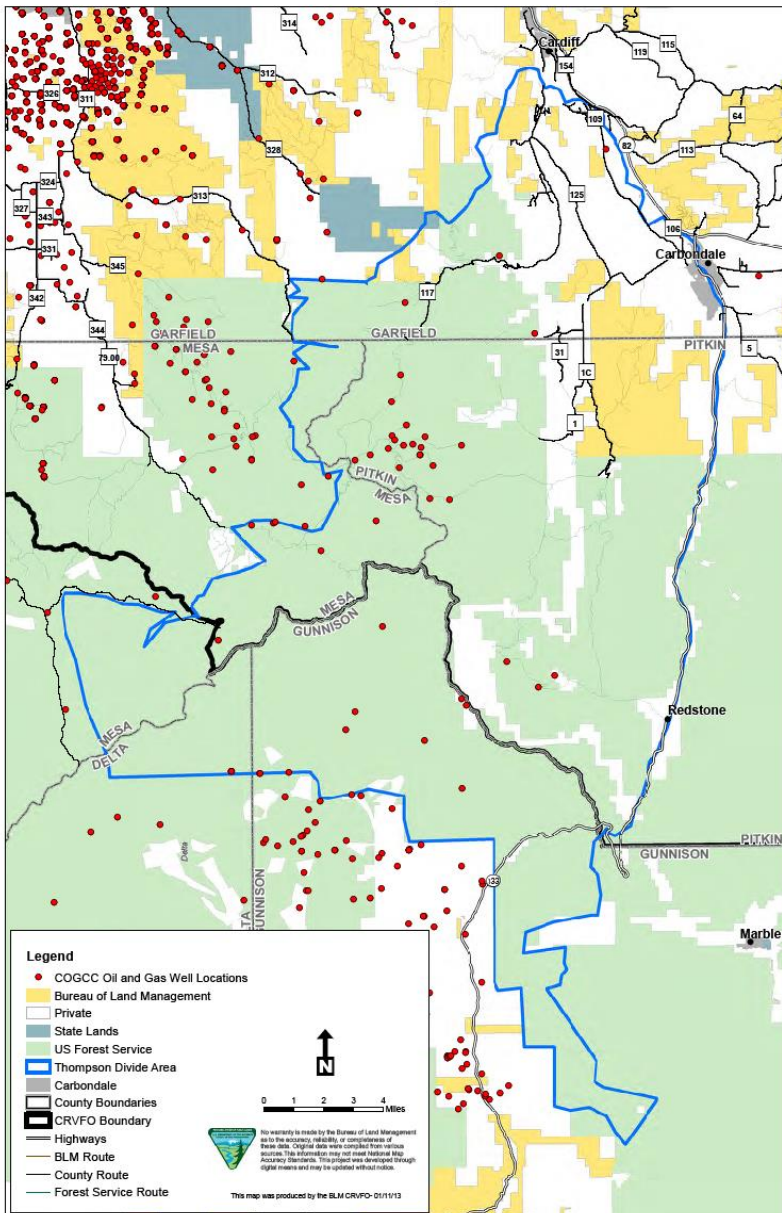
Gas Occurrence Potential

- High
- Medium
- Low
- No known

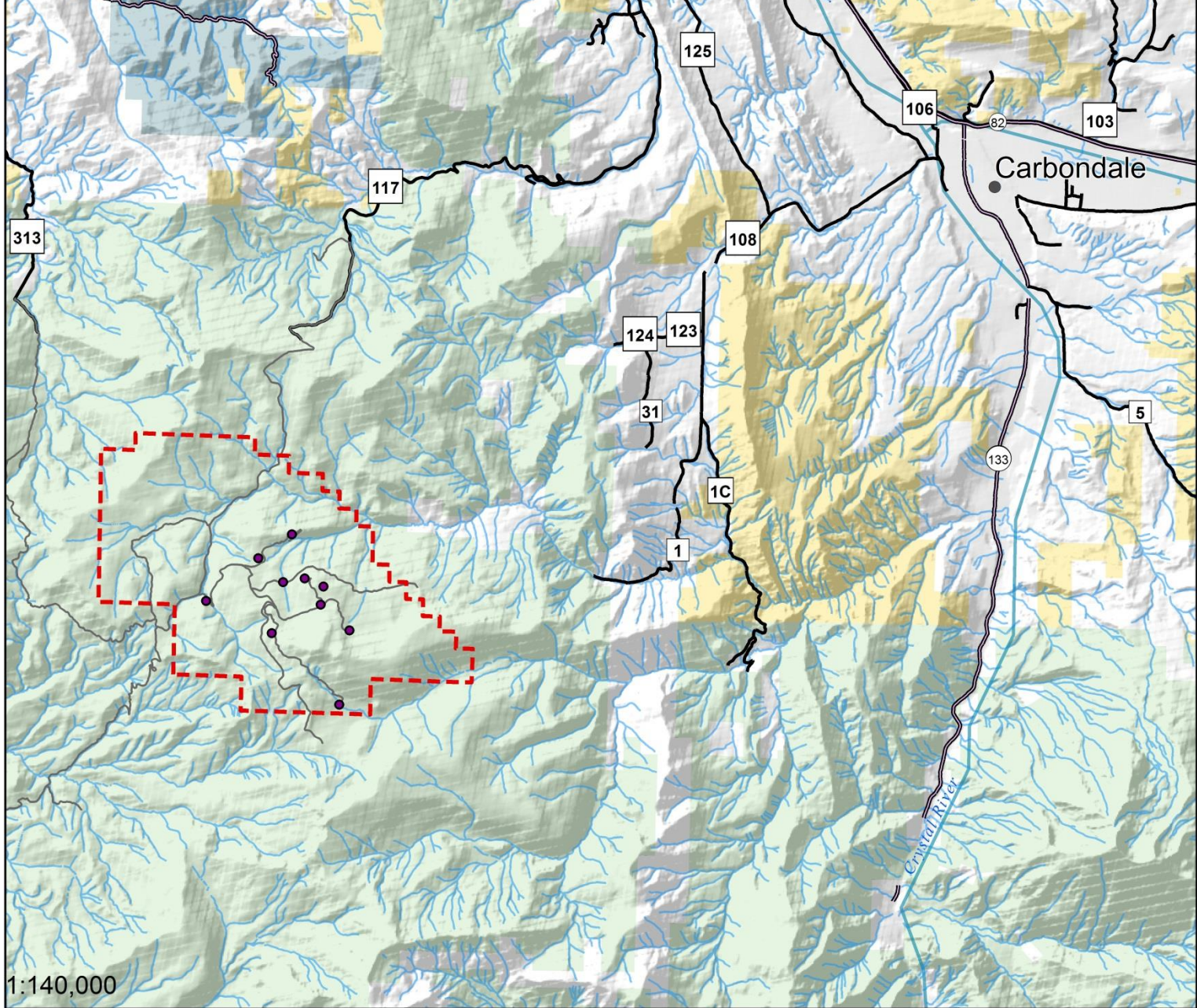


0 5 10 20 Miles

Historic Wells in Thompson Divide



- First well in Thompson Divide 1947
- 34 wells have been drilled since 1947
- 31 found gas, 16 produced gas
- Only 1 currently producing



1:140,000



0 1.25 2.5 5
Miles

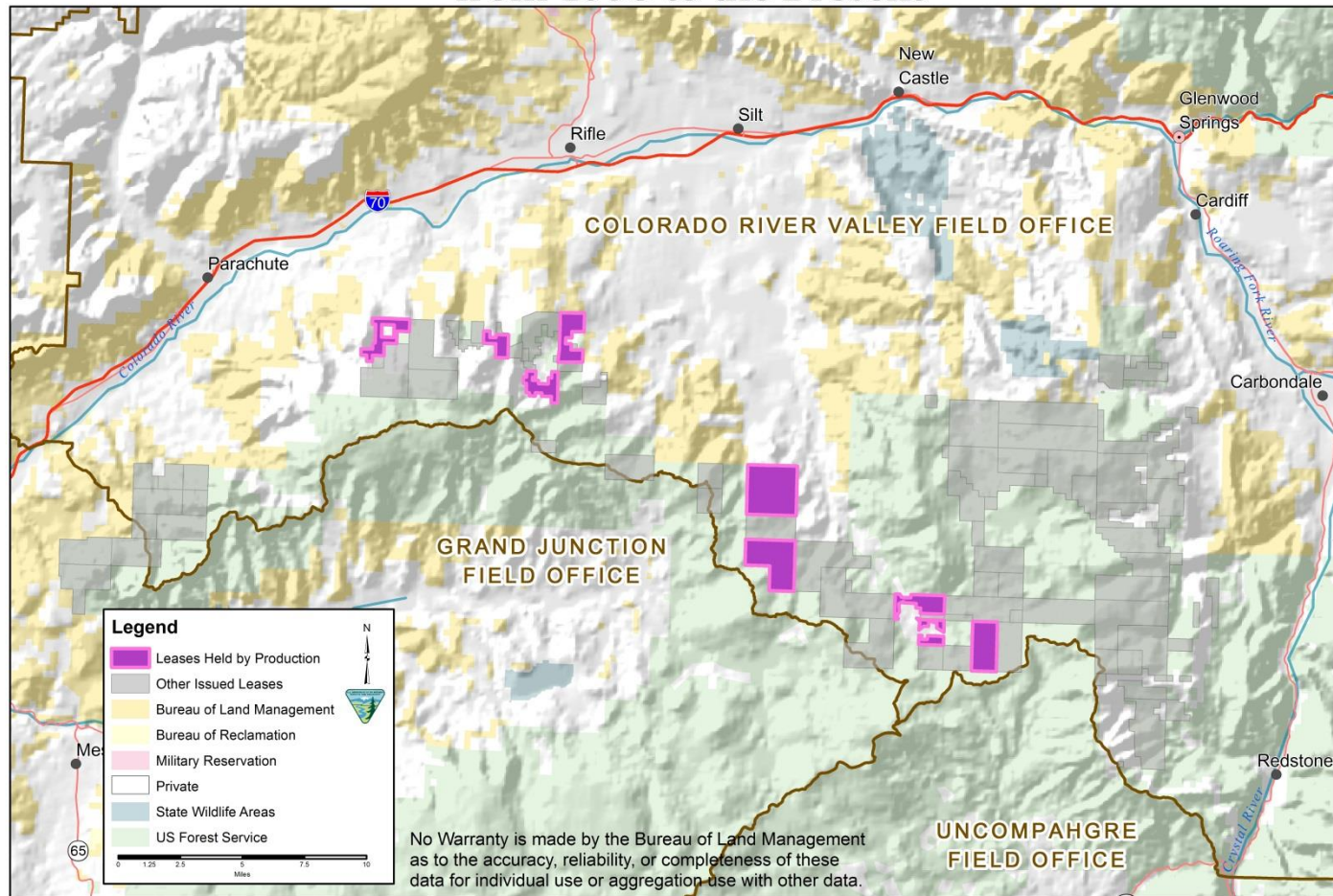


How will BLM incorporate the new Forest Service EIS decisions?

- BLM EIS will use as much of the Forest Service analysis as possible
- BLM could include an alternative for the 65 *current* leases that mirrors the Forest Service decision for *future* leases

Are any of the 65 leases producing?

Current Oil and Gas Leases Issued in the White River National Forest from 1993 to the Present



More Info

www.blm.gov/co/crvfo

Q&A

- 20 minutes
- Comment period follows

Oral Comment Period

- We want this to be as fair as possible to all involved
- Ground rules:
 - Two minutes per person
 - No giving your time to someone else
 - Not an interactive session—testimony only
 - Please be respectful, especially of other speakers
 - Please refrain from reacting to speakers (i.e. applause, shouts)